

## Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05  
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00  
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00  
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /126 W  
-----086593 020928Z /21

O 020830Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9678  
INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 785

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 0969

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: LOS - PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE

REF: A. USUN 712; B. STATE 50509; C. USUN 687

1. PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE IS CURRENTLY PRE-OCCUPIED WITH VISIT-  
ING SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM PRIME MINISTER PHAM VAN  
DONG. I JUDGED THAT A HASTILY ARRANGED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT  
AT THIS TIME WOULD NECESSARILY BE BRIEF, AND LESS LIKELY TO  
ELICIT CONCILIATORY CONTEMPLATION OF THIS COMPLEX MATTER THAN  
A REAFFIRMATION OF HIS DISTASTE FOR AMERASINGHE AND UNWILL-  
INGNESS TO HAVE HIM CONTINUE IN ANY OFFICIAL GSL CAPACITY.  
ACCORDINGLY I ARRANGED TO MEET 1 MARCH WITH PRESIDENT' YOUNGER  
BROTHER, HARRY JAYEWARDENE, FOR WHOM OUR SUPPORT HAS BEEN RE-  
QUESTED BY GSL FOR ELECTION TO UN SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION  
OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES.

2. IN LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH HARRY JAYEWARDENE, A CLOSE  
ADVISOR OF THE PRESIDENT (STRONGLY RECOMMENDED FOR THIS PUR-  
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POSE BY KNOWLEDGEABLE SENIOR FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL), I EX-  
PLAINED THE IMPORTANCE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF CON-  
TINUING AMERASINGHE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE LOS CONCERENECE. I  
STRESSED THE PROXIMITY ALL FELT TO AGREEMENT; THE RISK THAT  
COMPETITION OVER A SUCCESSOR COULD PROVOKE DIFFERENCES WHICH  
COULD BE DISRUPTIVE AND JEOPARDIZE THE IMMINENT AGREEMENT. I  
POINTED OUT HIS UNUSUAL POSITION OF TRUST AMONG MOST DELE-

GATIONS, AND HIS KNOWLEDGE OF NEARLY EVERYONE'S PRIVATE AS  
DISTINCT FROM PUBLIC POSITIONS.

3. HARRY JAYEWARDENE'S FIRST REACTION WAS TO REPORT THE NEARLY  
UNIVERSAL LACK OF RESPECT HERE FOR AMERASINGHE, BECAUSE OF  
HIS PERSONAL STYLE, HIS ARROGANCE TOWARD THE NEW GOVERNMENT  
AND ITS ELECTED AND APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE  
LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE CITED OTHER "IDIOCIES" FOR WHICH  
AMERASINGHE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN FULLY RESPONSIBLE. I STRESSED  
THE CONCERN I FELT IN HAVING RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO ASK  
PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE TO REVERSE HIS DECISION AGAINST CON-  
TINUING AMERASINGHE IN ANY CAPACITY, AND UNDERLINED THE AUS-  
TRIAN OPTION OF HONORARY ADVISOR. I OBSERVED THAT THE  
PRESIDENT HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF THIS OPTION WHEN HIS ORIGINAL  
NEGATIVE DECISION HAD BEEN MADE.

4. HARRY JAYEWARDENE NOTED THAT AMONG THOSE WHO AMERASINGHE  
HAD OFFENDED WAS NEW GSL PERMREP FERNANDO, WHEN FERNANDO HAD  
SERVED AS ADVISOR TO GSL DELEGATION AT THE LAST UNGA. HARRY  
JAYEWARDENE THOUGHT PRESIDENT MIGHT BE RELUCTANT TO "FORCE"  
AMERASINGHE ON FERNANDO UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THOUGH  
FERNANDO HAD AVOIDED ANY EXPRESSION OF VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT  
WHILE IN COLOMBO PREPARING TO GO TO NEW YORK AND SINCE HIS  
ARRIVAL THERE.

5. HARRY JAYEWARDENE AGREED TO PROMPTLY EXPLORE MATTER WITH  
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ONE OR TWO INFLUENTIAL "BUT SENSIBLE" CABINET MEMBERS AND  
HIS BROTHER, AND WOULD CONTACT ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. COMMENT: I WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLORE ALL AVENUES THAT SHOW  
PROMISE. FOREIGN MINISTRY PROFESSIONALS ARE ON OUR SIDE  
AND VERY HELPFUL. HOWEVER, FOREIGN MINISTER AND DEPUTY FOREIGN  
MINSTER ARE NOT TO BE LOOKED UPON AS ASSETS IN THIS SITUATION.  
MOST USEFUL TO ME NOW WOULD BE MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE  
FROM PERMREP FERNANDO, REPORTING ATMOSPHERE OF GROWING CON-  
CERN AMONG UN MEMBERS AT LIKELY LOS DEBACLE TO FOLLOW AMERA-  
SINGHE'S DEPARTURE AND HIS DESIRE NOT TO BEGIN HIS UN ROLE  
WITH HAVING TO EXPLAIN AWAY THIS GSL ACTION. IF FERNANDO  
COULD CITE WALDHEIM'S AUSTRIAN PRECEDENT OF "HONORARY AD-  
VISOR" TO DELEGATION AND RECOMMEND IT AS A DIGNIFIED WAY OUT,  
OUR MODEST CHANCES FOR SUCCESS HERE WOULD BE MATERIALLY EN-  
HANCED.  
WRIGGINS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** TENURE OF OFFICE, PRESIDENT, LAW OF THE SEA, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PLOS, PORO, US, CE, (AMERASINGHE, HAMILTON SHIRLEY)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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